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# Sample Proficiency Standard

## THEATRE

### E: Theatre Production

#### CONTENT STANDARD

*Students will think and work as playwrights, designers, managers, and/or directors to create and interpret improvised and scripted scenes.*

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#### PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

**E4:** By the end of grade 12, students in theatre class will research and design at least one element of a play (sets, costumes, make-up, lights, and/or sound).

#### SAMPLE TASK

Assume the role of set designer. Read a play called *The Still Alarm*, by George S. Kaufman, and create a set design (floor plan) for a proscenium stage that will meet the demands of the play. Include the shape, size, and position of each of the elements that make up the set design. Additionally, provide an explanation of the set design created.

##### Materials:

1. A script of the play *The Still Alarm*, by George S. Kaufman
2. An analysis page which enables you to identify the elements of the play
3. A planning page to practice designing a floor plan.
4. A final drawing page for the set design on which are identified the front and back of the stage and where the audience is located.
5. A page for you to explain your set design and provide a rationale for your decision.

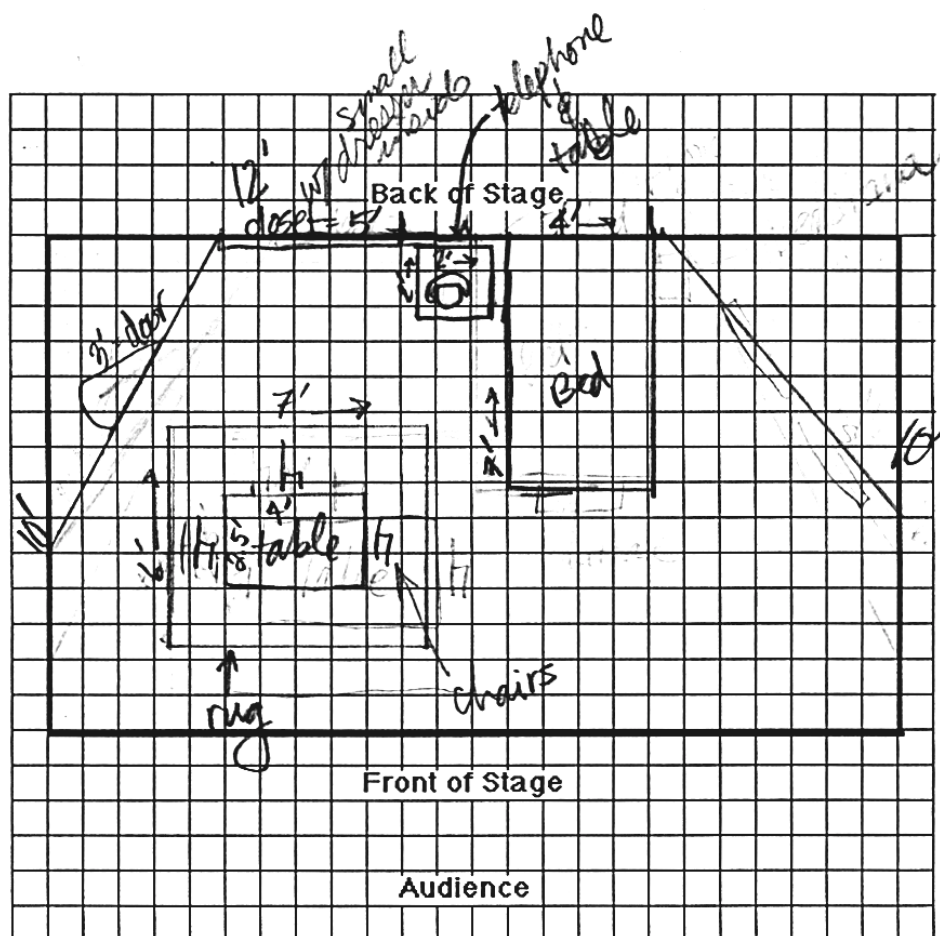
##### Process:

You will be given 30 minutes to read the play and complete the analysis page. Then you will be given 45 minutes to sketch preliminary designs, complete a final floor plan, and provide a rationale for your work. You will be scored on the final set design and rationale.

Students are assessed on their ability to create a set design (floor plan) for a one-act play, relate set design features directly to the physical requirements of the script, address the action of the play (character requirements) within the set design, and analyze and explain the thought processes and choices involved in planning the set design.

### Student Explanation of Floor Plan Design:

First of all I wanted a simple room. I have the basics of a door and two windows. Both are called for in the play and are basic parts of any room. Then I needed a bed because this play takes place in a hotel bedroom. Next I picked a closet because all hotel rooms I've been in have a closet. The play calls for a dresser so I have a small one inside the closet. Next to the bed I put a small table and a telephone on it. The play calls for a telephone and most simple hotel rooms have the phone right next to the bed. There also needed to be a table. I placed the table downstage a bit from the bed so there would be a little more room. There also needed to be a rug which I put under the table. I basically wanted something very simple that would hint of calmness like the acting in the play. I also think the table being downstage a bit helps to allow the actors more room so nothing seems crowded or rushed.

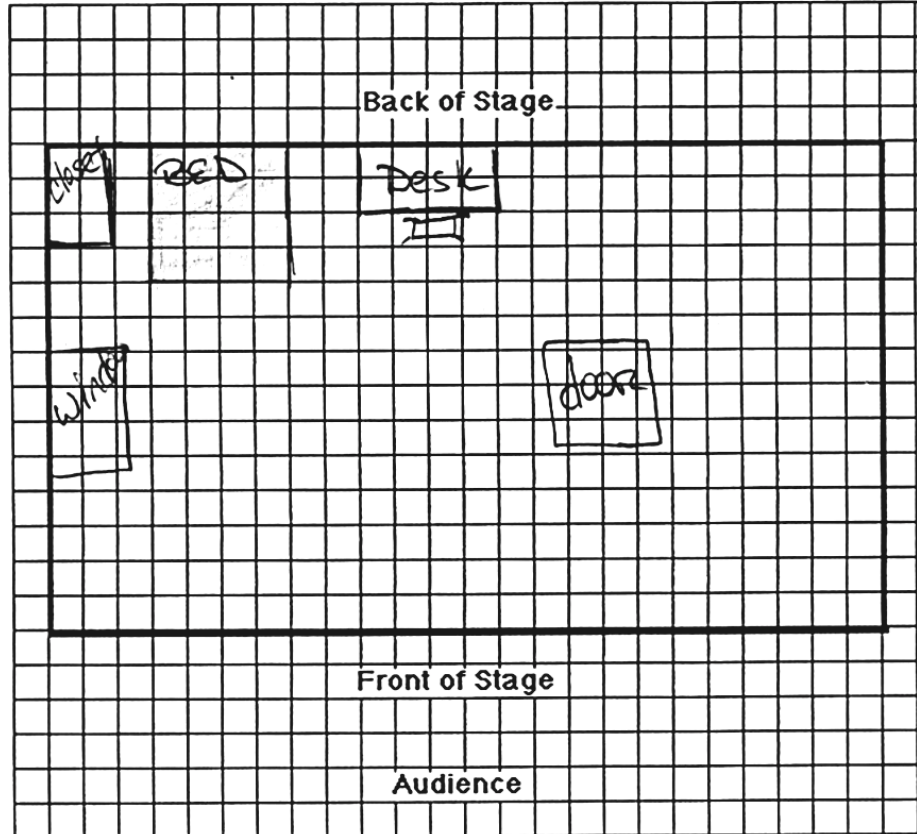


The set design contains all of the elements of the play. The set pieces are arranged to accommodate the movement of the actors and allow adequate space for the performance. The set design allows for the audience to view all of the action identified in the play.

## PROSCENIUM STAGE

### Student Explanation of Floor Plan Design:

The reason I chose the sketches I did was because the bed is like the second main thing so I faced it frontwards so people could see it. The desk or table was also face frontwards so people could see it. I put the door on the side so when people entered you'd be able to see them really good and since the door is closer to the front you can also hear better, cause that where most of the talking went on. The window is on the other side of the room because in the play it made me think they crossed the whole room just to get to the window. That's all.



### *Minimal*

The set design contains few of the elements identified in the play. There was little attempt to design an interior space called for in the script and the set pieces are located in one specific area of the stage. The student did not account for actor movement or play action. Little understanding of audience needs is apparent.